, over and above the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 620 per quintal for wheat for the crop year 2002-03 to be marketed in 2003-04, as recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

(b) The one time special drought relief is not payable to the drought affected States but to the farmers selling their produce to the Government agencies throughout the country.

**Foodgrains/fruits production in H.P.**

322. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target fixed for foodgrains/fruits production during the Tenth Five Year Plan in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government in this behalf; and

(c) the details of investments proposed to be made in the production of foodgrains/fruits in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Planning Commission has not fixed targets for the foodgrains and fruits production during the 10th Five Year Plan for the State of Himachal Pradesh. According to the draft 10th Five Year Plan (2002—07) document of Himachal Pradesh the targets in respect of foodgrains and fruits production are 1875 thousand metric tonnes and 750 thousand metric tonnes respectively.

(b) The steps taken by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh include development of modern facilities for the propagation of plant material to the farmers, increased used of biotechnology for-the fast multiplication of the plant material, improved water management through scientific methods of on farm water harvesting, conservation and application for making best use of scarce water resources to develop water harvesting facilities and install drip irrigation system; utilization of the integrated pest management technology; diversification of horticulture with emphasis on nut crops, olive, cherry, pear, stone fruits etc., utilization of information technology as an important tool for horticulture extension, development of horticultural crops especially for food processing like the wine varieties of grapes, older varieties of apples etc.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 10300 crores has been projected for the 10th Five Year Plan of the State which includes an outlay of Rs. 1201.69 crore for the agriculture and allied sectors.

**Milk production**

323. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country is one of the leading milk producing country in the World; if so, the details of production for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact, that the milk producers are selling their milk at cheaper rates, compared to other countries, if so, what are the comparative prices in other milk producing countries; and

(c) the details of steps Government propose to take to improve the quality of the milk, specially for its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of production for the last three years, State-wise are given in Statement (See below).

(b) Milk prices in the country are based on the cost of milk production. As per the study conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research in 1999, the cost of production per litre of milk is Rs. 7.28 and the revenue per litre of milk is Rs. 8.95 giving a net profit per litre of Rs. 1.67. Thus it can be seen that the price received by the producer in remunerative.

As per the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) data base, comparative data of producer's prices for various countries of the world is not available for recent years.

(c) The following steps have been taken to improve the quality for exports:—

(i) Standards have been laid down under export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 for export of milk products. Export Inspection Agency (EIA) has been nominated as competent authority for inspection and approval of plants.